



# Ickniel Community College

Headteacher: Mr M Hunter, BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH  
Love Lane, Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX49 5RB



## Newsletter – 11 December 2020

Date	Event
Wc 14 December	'A' week
2-18 December	Year 11 Mock Exams
10 December	Year 9 Parents Evening
17 December	School Finishes at 3pm (Non-Uniform Day)
18 December	Inset Day
19 Dec–3 Jan'21	Christmas Holiday
4 January'21	Inset Day
5 January	School Resumes

### South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan

As you may well have heard already, SODC has voted to adopt the new Local Plan, which includes the development of Chalgrove Airfield to provide approximately 3,000 new homes. The policy for this site includes new primary schools and a new secondary school, which could be a relocated and expanded Ickniel Community College. Any relocation of Ickniel would be the subject of further consultation, and the approval of the Regional Schools Commissioner. There is no certain timescale for this, as it depends on the progress of the housing development. Even though the Local Plan has been adopted, the development will still need to go through the usual planning permission processes. A planning application for the development has been submitted, but it will still be some months before the district council decides whether to approve it, or whether changes need to be made. The first approval would be in "outline" and further work would be needed to get permission for all the details.

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

**David Marcou**  
Chair of Governors

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

As you will be aware from my communication on Wednesday, school will finish for students at 3.00pm on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a non-school uniform day. Students should bring in their non-school uniform money (£1) and give it to their tutors as normal.

### Masks on Buses

Please find attached a letter from Oxfordshire County Council about students wearing masks on buses, the key paragraph being "[Until last week, Government advice stated that passengers on dedicated school buses should be 'encouraged' to wear face coverings while travelling. From 2nd December, in accordance with updated advice from Public Health England, children and young people aged 11 and over 'must' wear a face covering when travelling on dedicated transport to secondary school or college, unless they are exempt.](#)"

### Positive Coronavirus Cases – Contacting School

Should your child test positive for COVID-19 between Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, please email directly – [headteacher@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@ickniel.oxon.sch.uk). I still have a responsibility in the Christmas Holidays to support Track and Trace and notify parents if their children need to self-isolate. Clearly this is not a call I will be wanting to make, but will do so, if required, out of necessity.

### Thank you and Merry Christmas (this being the last newsletter of the year!)

In what has been a challenging term for us all, may I thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support and wish you all a wonderful Christmas break with your loved ones. I wish you all the best, too, for an uplifting 2021!

**Mat Hunter**  
Headteacher

### **Walking home from school after clubs**

Please could you talk to your children about being careful when walking home from after-school clubs now it is dark so early. It is sensible to walk with someone if possible. We have had a report of a student being approached by a suspicious person in Watlington whilst walking home alone. This may be completely innocent and has been reported to the police but just in case, please speak to your children about being vigilant and sensible. Let us know if you have any concerns.

**Vicky Pickford**

### **Y11 Parents**

Next week, your son/daughter will be asked to sign a document that has been issued by OCC. As a school, we have a legal duty to track our students' onward journeys post ICC for up to 3 years. Tracking them for their onward journey into Y12/13 is not a problem for us and is something we do every year. However, tracking them as they go onto University, an Apprenticeship or Employment is more difficult for us as we don't have a Sixth Form ourselves. Therefore, OCC have created a form that allows them to track all students once they finish Y13 so they know where the onward destination is. It is a form that your son/daughter will need to sign and, whilst it is not compulsory, it is strongly encouraged and recommended. The form will be given out, signed and returned during a tutor group session next week. I would be grateful of your support in sharing this news with your son/daughter over the weekend so that they know what to expect and it is, also, of course, no surprise to you when they come home to tell you they have signed a document at school! The key reason that this is a legal requirement is to keep our students and young adults safe as they journey on into their further/higher education and employment. Should you have any questions, please do get in touch.

**Helen Richardson – Careers  
Coordinator**

### **New Equipment for Year 7s**

Year 7s have been enjoying their new equipment this week. With many thanks to the Friends of Icknield Community College for providing the funds for this.

**Marian Carter**



## A message from the School Council

The last day of term will be a non-school uniform day. Please can all students who dress in non-school uniform bring in £1 to give to their tutors. Half the money raised will go back into the school to support a variety of different projects whilst the other half will go to the Footsteps Foundation. Footsteps is a small, not-for-profit organisation based in Oxfordshire that provides intensive physiotherapy for disabled children, enabling children with cerebral palsy and other neurological disorders to walk, talk and achieve their unique potential. The footsteps centre provides therapy for babies and children up to the age of 18, through the use of traditional exercises and specialist equipment called the 'Spider'. Therapy at footsteps helps to improve gross motor, fine motor and cognitive development, encouraging even the most reluctant children to reach their full potential. Thank you for your support.

School Council

## E-Safety Assembly

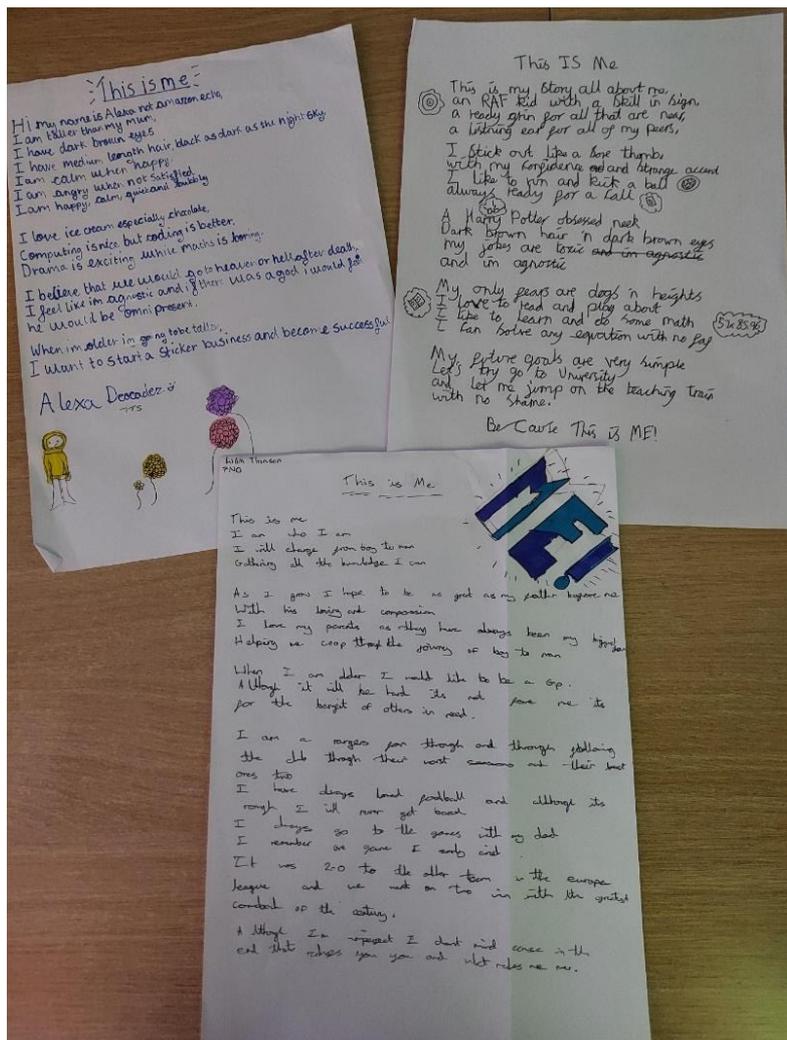
This week's school assembly focused on e-Safety. I have delivered this assembly now for a number of years and, as I said in the assembly, the role of the internet, social media and apps in our lives has never been more pertinent. The assembly is attached to the newsletter and I recommend all students and parents to engage in a discussion about online behaviour and e-safety.

Adam Rickard

## RE and Citizenship Year 7 students

During the first rotation of RE and Citizenship Year 7 students were challenged to write a poem about themselves, with a catch! The poem needed to include their own beliefs about God and religion as well as a chance to explore their own future goals. I have to say competition was extremely high and I was so impressed by the entries I received. A huge well done to Jessica Purchase, Alexa Deocadez and Liam Thomson for their incredibly insightful and thought provoking poems. Enjoy your chocolatey treat and I can't wait to see the next round of entries! Well done to all of you.

Kayley McMillan



## Year 10 English Lessons after Christmas

Year 10 have been working hard on the first Literature text of their GCSE course since returning to school in September and I am looking forward to seeing how this hard work will pay off in their mock exams in January.

For clarity, students will only be sitting an English Literature mock exam on the text 'An Inspector Calls' and they will be given all the necessary information in their English Literature lessons so that they can revise effectively over the Christmas break.

After the mock exams students will begin studying the second set text of the Literature course which is Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. Experience tells us that this can be the text students find most difficult and it might be beneficial for students to have their own copy of the text so that they can revisit key scenes and go over language in their own time at home.

Obviously, we have texts that students can use in school and these will need to be kept 'note-free' and kept in the classroom. I'm sure a copy of 'Macbeth' would make an excellent Christmas present should you wish to purchase a copy for students to use.

Whilst any version of the text is suitable, we recommend the Oxford School Shakespeare version of Macbeth (ISBN: 978-019-832400-3) as this has additional explanatory notes and further guidance. It is also the version we will be using with students in school.

Students will be closely studying the text from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January and teachers may have put this information on Show My Homework for them to refer to later on.

**Chris McGinnity**

## Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their sections. Each student has put lots of work into completing their sections and assessors' reports during term time as well as a national lockdown. Congratulations to Jules H (Physical), Felix L (Skill), Alex W (Physical), Isabella D (Skill), Ciaran R (Skill), Fabian C (Volunteering), Jess G (Volunteering), Georgie W-S (Skill), Maisie T (Volunteering),

A special congratulations to the following students who have now completed their volunteering, physical and skill sections: Alex W, Isabella D, Fabian C, Georgie W-S. All students who complete all 3 sections will receive a special certificate emailed to them by the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Can I encourage any participant who has not uploaded their assessors' reports to upload them as soon as they can and let me know if you are having any problems with their section.

A letter went home last week to explain about the changes to the expeditions for bronze and silver participants. Please can all Silver participants confirm that they still want to continue with their expedition by emailing Miss Scane.

**Katie Scane**

## PE News

Next term, we are pleased to announce that we are able to offer further alternative sports as part of our PE curriculum, due to recent guidance allowing us to do so. This means we will be able to bring back **rugby** and **hockey**, and we would like to confirm that these lessons will be strictly following the latest guidance, therefore, certain aspects will still not be delivered (such as mauling and scrummaging in rugby). A reminder that rugby and hockey will require students to have a **gumshield**, as well as hockey also requiring the wearing of shin pads. Students will be told next week what equipment/kit they will need for their lessons in the first week back.

A huge thank you to every single student who has attended clubs this year. We have been completely amazed by the numbers we have received, with some nights the PE team having over 100 students to a variety of extra-curricular clubs! Thank you also to our Sport Leaders and Sport Captains who have dedicated their time to supporting these clubs and running their own sessions; it has been greatly appreciated.

At the time of writing, we are almost at the end of our first week of Winter Games. These have been very well received by our KS3 students, and, as a PE department, we are delighted to see so many students getting involved and enjoying themselves. It is currently very tight between all 8 teams, however, our top 3 at the moment goes as follows: Housby in 3<sup>rd</sup>, Houghton in 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Redgrave in 1<sup>st</sup>! There are still lots of points to win and everything to play for. Our final results will be put into the first newsletter back after Christmas, but you can catch them beforehand on our Instagram page.

### **Newquay 2021**

Thank you to all parents of Year 9 and 10 students who have so far emailed either Mr Mures or Miss Hamilton expressing interest in the Newquay trip on behalf of their sons/daughters. If there are still parents yet to do so, can they please send those emails of interest to [matt.mures@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:matt.mures@icknield.oxon.sch.uk) and/or [georgina.hamilton@icknield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:georgina.hamilton@icknield.oxon.sch.uk) at the beginning of next week.

We are aware that for some parents in Year 9, you may still be unsure of what exactly this trip involves. The Newquay trip is a 4 day water-sports experience that we put on (or try to!) every year for our Year 9 students, something that has been running now for many years, and is always fondly remembered by all those who go. Our aim on the trip is to give the students the opportunity to try out new experiences such as coasteering, surfing, kayaking, paddle-boarding etc. We use a company called Elemental UK, who always look after our students superbly, ensuring they get the most out of their time with each activity they do. Many of our students who have been previously look back on this trip as one of their Icknield highlights. At this stage, we are only asking parents for an indication of interest, there is no expectation of a deposit right now. Anyone with further questions can email the addresses mentioned above.

**Matt Mures**

### **Maths Problem of the Week**

The Maths Problem of the Week and the solution to the previous problem are attached.

**Nick Owen**

### **Letters to Parents/Carers**

The following letters have been sent out this week via ParentMail:

Oxfordshire Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclass Letter – Selected Students Year 9

These letters can also be accessed on the school website:

<http://www.icknield.oxon.sch.uk/news-and-events/letters-to-parent>

**Finance Office**